

# BIG GUNS PRESAGE GERMAN OFFENSIVE

## FORTY-ONE OTHER NEGROES GET LIFE SENTENCE

### Artillery Duels of Magnitude Are in Progress From the North Sea to the Adriatic

## SUPREME EFFORT BEFORE U. S. TROOPS ARRIVE

### On the British Front Huge Numbers of Airplanes Are Engaging in Battles or Searching Out Points Where Troops Are Concentrating—Daily Reinforcements for the Teutons Have Given Them Superior Numbers on All Fronts—On the Northern Front in Italy the Artillery Fighting is Intense—In Russia the Counter-Revolution Movement Headed by General Kaledines is Growing in Strength—The Situation in Moscow is Said to be Serious.

Along the entire western front from the North sea to the Adriatic artillery duels of great magnitude are being fought which doubtless are the forerunners of the expected great offensive the Teutonic allies have in view before the American troops can reach the battle fronts in great numbers.

On the Tyres and Arras fronts held by the British, on various sectors eastward from St. Quentin, Alstet in the hill country bordering the Italian plains and at points along the Piave river the big guns everywhere are in operation.

On the British front huge numbers of airplanes are continuously warring their way to the battle lines, engaging in battles in the air or searching out points where troops are being concentrated. The only infant activity taking place on any of the fronts is in the nature of raiding operations.

The Teutons daily continue to reinforce by large numbers their already superior forces on all the fronts. In the rush of troops and munitions to the theatre in which the British are operating one German train is reported to have collided with another, resulting in a great explosion in which several hundred soldiers were killed.

Between the Brenna and Piave rivers on the northern front in Italy the artillery fighting is described by the Rome war office as intense, and there is a serious action in the region near the mouth of the Piave, where the Austrians Monday captured a position in the Capo Sile region, but later were driven out with heavy losses in killed and men made prisoner.

In Russia the counter-revolutionary movement headed by General Kaledines is growing in strength. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, considerable forces of troops on the Russian front are being rushed from the trenches to give battle to Kaledines' Cossacks.

The situation in Moscow, which is held by the Bolsheviks, is said to be serious. Unofficial advice is to the effect that street fighting already has occurred there and that the government is showing signs of mutiny against the Bolsheviks, who have placed machine guns in the streets to combat a feared uprising. Starvation is threatening the populace of the city.

## INDUSTRY AT FORT SMITH, ARK., PARALYZED BY STRIKE

### Appeals Have Been Made to Washington and State Officials for Relief.

Fort Smith, Ark., Dec. 11.—The general strike situation here was unchanged today, all industry being paralyzed by the want of power. Voluminous telegraphic appeals to Washington and the state capital for relief have been made by business interests. The injunction granted against interference by strikers with the operation of the power house proved abortive yesterday for the reason that the traction company refused to take the risks under the protection offered. Today officials of the county and city offered the protection necessary and it is expected that light and power will be available by tonight.

## GERMANY MADE PEACE OVERTURES IN SEPTEMBER

### Foreign Secretary Balfour is Told the House of Commons.

London, Dec. 11.—Foreign Secretary Balfour told the house of commons today that a communication had been received by Great Britain from Germany last September, through a neutral diplomatic channel, to the effect that Germany would be glad to get into communication with Great Britain in regard to peace.

The British government replied it was prepared to receive any communication from Germany, and to discuss it with Great Britain's allies.

## CONNECTICUT WILL SEND DOUBLE ITS QUOTA

### Into the Armies of the United States—4,305 Men Have Enlisted.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 11.—Connecticut will send double its quota into the armies of the United States when recruiting closes tonight the total accepted in this state stood at 4,305 and the number asked for 8,610.

The rush to enlist continues and the total is expected to be well over 4,500 when recruiting closes Thursday afternoon. Notice was given here today that men of African descent may now secure good army berths by enlisting as mechanics or artisans.

## 7,000 TONS OF COAL DUMPED INTO LAKE

### When Steamer Presque Isle Went Ashore Near Sheboygan, Wis.

Sheboygan, Wis., Dec. 11.—The coal cargo of 7,000 tons of the steamer Presque Isle which went ashore ten miles north of here Sunday, was dumped into the lake today after the boat commenced to leak badly. Action was taken in order to release the vessel to avert danger of the boat pounding to pieces.

## WOMAN'S PARTY MILITANTS FILE EIGHT \$50,000 SUITS

### Against Jail Officials of the District of Columbia.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Eight damage suits for \$50,000 each were filed today against the three commissioners who govern the District of Columbia and the superintendent of the jail here, by the Woman's Party militants recently imprisoned for picketing the White House. The women charged assault and conspiracy.

## Sultan of Turkey Ill

### Genoa, Dec. 11.—Despatches received here by way of Vienna report that the sultan of Turkey is seriously ill.

## Cabled Paragraphs

Crew of Schooner Forbin Saved. St. John, N. B., Dec. 11.—A steamer arriving here today with officers and men returning from the front brought the crew of the Quebec steamer Forbin, abandoned in a foundering condition 55 miles off Cape Race, N. F.

China Sends Protest to Japan. Peking, Monday, Dec. 10.—The Chinese government has protested to Japan for a note ordering the Japanese establishment of civil administration in Shantung territory outside of the Tientsin area. The protest is a settlement of this question until after the war is being sought by the Japanese authorities.

## PRESIDENT IS STUDYING THE RAILROAD SITUATION

### Today He Will Confer With the Members of the Railroad War Board.

Washington, Dec. 11.—In his first public utterance on the railroad situation, President Wilson tonight authorized the newspaper correspondents to say that he could answer only one question as to whether he would address congress, but that he has given serious consideration to the matter and that he has determined a change in the present plan of dealing with the transportation system was necessary the first word on the subject would be addressed to congress. Tomorrow the president will see the members of the Railroad War Board, which speaks for the American Railway Association, holds that the railroads themselves can work out unimpeded for the year without government control, and without repeal of anti-pooling laws or a government loan.

He developed tonight Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and chairman of the government's war industries board, the heads of the four railroad employees' brotherhoods to meet him here tomorrow night at the White House. Willard said his purpose was to talk about questions pending before the industrial committee of the National War Board, which would be here to give rise to general belief that they would be called into some of the various congresses on the subject of what the government is going to do about the railroads.

## CONVENTION OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

### 400 Members Will March on the Capitol in Washington Today.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Four hundred women gathered here for the 49th annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association will march on the capitol tomorrow to present a memorial to the congressional delegations in favor of the passage of the federal suffrage amendment, reported by the joint committee of the legislative committee would recommend.

An executive council, it was learned today, probably will recommend to the convention, which begins tomorrow, that the amendment be passed.

## DETAILS OF SINKING OF DESTROYER JACOB JONES

### Was Struck Just After She Had Completed Target Practice.

Base of the American Flotilla in British Waters, Dec. 11.—(By The Associated Press.)—The American torpedo destroyer Jacob Jones was torpedoed and sunk in British waters, according to reports received here today. The ship was carrying a cargo of munitions and was on a mission to deliver supplies to the forces of the United States in the North Atlantic. The ship was struck by a torpedo fired from a German submarine. The ship sank with all hands.

## TO PLACE MORE LAND UNDER CULTIVATION

### Secretary Lane Suggests an Appropriation of \$1,900,000 For That Purpose.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Hundreds of thousands of acres of land in the United States, hitherto untitled, may be placed in cultivation, Secretary Lane today reported to congress. An appropriation of \$1,900,000 was suggested for the purchase of seeds and other equipment for the land under the direction of the secretary.

## ON TRIAL FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL FOOD LICENSES

### Two Wholesale Grocery Establishments in New York.

New York, Dec. 11.—Trial of the first cases growing out of violation of federal food licenses in this city today conducted by the federal food board today when proprietors of the wholesale grocery establishments were arraigned on charges of extortion.

## JUNIOR NAVAL RESERVISTS GOING TO PALM BEACH

### Those Who Attended the Training Camps in Connecticut.

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 11.—Enroute to West Palm Beach, Fla., to continue training for service in the American navy and merchant marine, the first detachment of the United States junior naval reserve sailed from here tonight. Those composing the detachment are being sent to the winter training camp soon.

## Another Scare Given Halifax

### BY STEAMER AFIRE SAID TO HAVE CARGO OF MUNITIONS

ABANDONED BY CREW

A Group of Dartmouth Citizens Boarded the Ship and Extinguished the Flames—Survivors of Imo Told of Cause of Collision—Looting Begun.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 11.—With complete disregard for their own lives, an effort to save this desolated city from another catastrophe, a group of Dartmouth citizens boarded the steamer Imo, which was abandoned by its crew, and extinguished the flames. The ship was carrying a cargo of munitions, which was abandoned by its crew.

Carried Deckload of Oil. The vessel carried a deckload of oil and as she came in close to shore with smoke pouring from her superstructure the sight of her being crew stirred the watchers ashore to prompt action. A group of citizens boarded the ship and quickly organized and the burning ship was boarded. After hard work the flames were extinguished and the ship remained ashore today, preferring the scant relief shelter provided in Dartmouth.

Statements by Two Survivors. According to statements obtained today from survivors of the Norwegian steamer Imo, which collided with the Mont Blanc, the latter ship flew a red flag to indicate that she carried a cargo of explosives. They declared that the explosion on the ship was due to the fire and not fear of an explosion. They asserted the Mont Blanc coming into the harbor on the wrong side when the collision occurred.

## Confused by Whistle Blasts

There was a slight mist, they said, and while in the narrow they heard two blasts, indicating that a ship was approaching. The ship was the wrong side of the harbor, which was the wrong side. The Imo's course was directed toward the Dartmouth wharf and while making course they heard one blast, which indicated a vessel was on the right side. The Imo's course was directed toward the Dartmouth wharf and while making course they heard one blast, which indicated a vessel was on the right side.

## Hope Abandoned for Sixty Men

Hope was abandoned today for sixty men, it was learned, when the steamer Picton at the Acadia quay at the time of the disaster. The ship was carrying a cargo of munitions, which was abandoned by its crew.

## Man Found Alive in the Ruins

A man who survived the explosion was found among the ruins today. He was discovered by a group of citizens who were searching for survivors. The man was found alive and well.

## Looting Has Begun

At the request of the city board of control, the military authorities will place a mounted patrol on the destroyed area to suppress looting. Today a number of freight cars were opened and liquor was stolen. One woman reported to the police that she had been robbed of a purse.

## Unable to Sort Mails

Since Thursday Halifax has been practically cut off from mail communication with the outside world. The few officials able to work at the post office have been unable to sort the mails.

## MONTHLY REPORT OF STATE BUREAU OF LABOR

### Positions Were Secured For 2,294 Persons—There Were 3,264 Applications.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 11.—The report of the state bureau of labor for the month ending November 30 shows that in the five free agencies 3,262 persons applied for work and of these 2,294 were placed in positions. The percentage of applicants who were placed in work was 70.7 against 77.3 for October.

## GENERAL STRIKE OF UNION MEN IN TWIN CITIES

### Has Been Ordered For Thursday Morning—In Sympathy With Street Car Employees.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 11.—All union men in St. Paul and Minneapolis will be called out to strike work at 10 p. m. Thursday morning in sympathy with the dissatisfied street car employees, it was announced today by the local chairman of the executive committee of the union's organization.

## "Make it a Red Cross Christmas"

### PRESIDENT WILSON APPEALS TO PEOPLE TO BECOME MEMBERS

AN ARM OF THE SERVICE

An intensive drive is to be made to enroll new members, the first organized effort since the war commenced.

Washington, Dec. 11.—With the slogan "Make it a Red Cross Christmas," an effort will be made to add ten million new members to the five million now in the organization. Only one week has been allotted to the intensive drive, but it is expected that this will be enough. This is the first organized effort the Red Cross has made to enroll new members since the war started.

## President Wilson's Appeal

The president's appeal is as follows: "To the People of the United States: Ten million Americans are invited to join the American Red Cross during the week ending with Christmas. The week requires that every branch of our great national effort shall be loyal and upheld. It is the duty of every citizen to do his part in the Red Cross should be the branch through which your willingness to help is expressed.

"You should join the American Red Cross because it alone can carry the burden of the war. It is the only organization that is bearing the burden of the war. It is the only organization that is bearing the burden of the war. It is the only organization that is bearing the burden of the war.

## Aid in Relief of Suffering

Because this arm of the national service is steadily and efficiently maintaining the overseas relief in every suffering land, administering our millions of dollars of aid, and awakening the gratitude of every people. Our conscience will not let us enjoy the Christmas season if this pledge of support is not fulfilled. Red Cross membership is the Christmas spirit in terms of action.

## "WOODROW WILSON, President of the American Red Cross"

## FURTHER REDUCTION OF ALCOHOL IN BEER

Beer Brewed After Jan. 1 Will Contain Only 2.3-4 Per Cent.

Washington, Dec. 11.—President Wilson tonight issued a proclamation reducing the alcoholic content of beer brewed after Jan. 1, 1918, to two and three-fourths per cent. The proclamation also prohibited the use in the manufacture of malt liquors of more than twenty per cent of malted barley.

## MEETING OF SAVINGS BANK ASSOCIATION

### Was Addressed by Alfred L. Aiken of Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 11.—At the annual meeting of the Savings Bank Association of Connecticut held here today, S. Fred Strong of New Haven was re-elected president. Other officers chosen were: Willis S. Lyon, of Bridgeport, financial agent; Arthur W. Allen, Middletown, second vice president; Arthur T. Nettleton, New Britain, president; George H. Brooks, Deep River, treasurer. The executive committee chosen follows: Louis S. Wadsworth, Torrington; George H. Stoughton, Hartford; Charles F. Harwood, Stafford Springs; Frank E. Deming, Farmington.

## TROLLEY FARE HEARING CLOSED AT HARTFORD

General Manager Punderford Exhibited Chart of Increase in Cost.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 11.—In closing the day's hearing on the cent fare before the public utilities commission this afternoon John K. Punderford, chief president and general manager, exhibited a chart showing the increase in cost of maintenance and operation of the trolley system.

## EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS ARE GROWING HEAVIER

For Ten Months Ending in October They Totaled \$1,802,244,046.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Exports of foodstuffs from the United States for the ten months ending in October totaled \$1,802,244,046, figures announced tonight by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce show. For the same period last year the total was \$1,684,118,000.

## A Resolution by Senator Overman

### Asking the Secretary of War Whether There Are Any Military Rules Prohibiting the Minding of Officers and Privates Socially When Off Duty or Which Would Tend to Cast Distinction Was Adopted by the Senate.

General increases in freight rates on manufactured iron and steel, billes, pig iron and scrap iron amounting to somewhat less than 15 per cent, were reported today by the Interstate Commerce Commission in an application filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

## Condensed Telegrams

The German army possesses about 2,500 airplanes.

News from the frontier indicates that quiet prevails throughout Portugal.

A general increase in prices of Utah coal at the mine was granted by the fuel administration.

The second relief steamer to leave Boston for Halifax sailed yesterday, carrying goods valued at \$50,000.

C. W. Cook of San Francisco was named director of operations for the shipping board on the Pacific coast.

Snow fell in Birmingham, Ala., and throughout the state yesterday, following an unusually severe cold spell.

Street fighting has occurred in Moscow and the Swedish consul there has advised all Swedes to leave the city.

The capture of a carrier pigeon, under whose wing was a message in German, was reported to the police at Halifax.

Difficulties which threatened a strike of 2,300 telegraphers employed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were settled.

Paragrad newspapers say that Chinese troops have arrived at Harbin, Manchuria, to protect Chinese interests.

The British casualties reported for the week ending yesterday numbered 23,356, as compared with 28,322 in the previous week.

An increase of ten cents a ton in coal prices at the mines was announced by the fuel administration.

Alexander Von Gersdorff, former German consul at Seattle, was arrested as a dangerous alien, according to federal authorities.

Two million dollars will be advanced by the war and navy departments to the Bethlehem Steel Company on munitions contracts.

Every American soldier in France, including those attached to the French and British armies, will receive a Christmas gift bag.

A vessel flying the American flag, believed to be a herring fisherman from Gloucester, Mass., went ashore near Codroy, N. F.

Judge Alexander Dowling, 80, judge of the supreme court of Indiana from 1899 to 1905, was found dead in his office at New Albany, Ind.

Former Premier Asquith strongly endorsed President Wilson's message as clearly expressing the intentions and desires of the allies.

It is reported at Eagle Pass, Tex., that Mexican forces headed by Gutierrez and a band of revolutionaries have captured Monclova, Mexico.

Strong support is being given by several organizations to name a street of Rome after President Wilson.

British tonnage completed in the month of November totaled 1,000,000 tons, a record for the month.

The Western Union Telegraph company declared an extra dividend of one per cent, together with the regular quarterly dividend of 1-1/2 per cent.

A Geneva despatch to the Copenhagen Vessels Zeitung says that on receiving the cardinals the people were told to be quiet and to wait for the news of peace.

Samuel Strauss, 31 years old, an inmate of a large boarding house in Bridgeport, has been isolated by the health authorities because of his being infected with smallpox.

Two hundred thousands persons took part in a demonstration before the American embassy at Rome. Among the speakers was Congressman Fiorello La Guardia of New York.

In the house of commons today the chancellor of the exchequer, Andrew Bonar Law, will move a credit of \$500,000,000, bringing the total for the fiscal year 1917-18 to \$2,450,000,000.

Police investigation resulted in the identification of a decomposed body found buried near the Dr. Pont place at Hopewell, Va., as that of W. J. Hallahan, a soldier, from Pittsburgh, Pa.

The correspondent at Amsterdam of the London Daily Express reports that the Germans are rushing troops to the western front with the idea of smashing into the allies before America is able to act.

The situation in Moscow is reported to be grave according to a Times despatch from Petrograd. The garrison shows signs of insubordination and is reported to be disobeying the Bolshevik commander.

The Cossacks are preparing to fight, the Petrograd correspondent of the London Daily Mail reports. Three trainloads of Cossacks are said to be at Bielgorod and three at Sumy, commanded by General Korniloff.

Under the will of Oscar Lewisohn, who died at his home in New York Sunday, the widow, who was formerly Edna May, the actress, is bequeathed \$125,000. Mr. Lewisohn's wealth had been estimated at \$500,000.

A volume written by Samuel De Champlain in 1603 on his explorations of the mind of "Des Sauvages," which was bought several years ago in a book store for 30 cents was sold for \$100 at a book sale in New York yesterday.

No attempt will be made to define the future position of Jerusalem before a general peace comes, the London Times says it understands. In the meantime the city will be treated as a British military occupation and will be under martial law.

A resolution by Senator Overman asking the secretary of war whether there are any military rules prohibiting the minding of officers and privates socially when off duty or which would tend to cast distinction was adopted by the senate.

General increases in freight rates on manufactured iron and steel, billes, pig iron and scrap iron amounting to somewhat less than 15 per cent, were reported today by the Interstate Commerce Commission in an application filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

All the secondary schools in Portugal are closed as the result of a strike.

## THIRTEEN NEGRO SOLDIERS HANGED

### For Murder of Houston Citizens While in Mutinous Raid Last August

## FORTY-ONE OTHER NEGROES GOT LIFE SENTENCE

### Four Others Were Sentenced for Short Terms and Five Were Acquitted—The Condemned Negroes Who Had Known Their Fate Since Sunday, Displayed Neither Bravado or Fear—They Rode to the Execution Singing a Hymn as Soldiers Sing When on a March—The Execution Took Place at Fort Sam Houston, Tex.—It is Expected That Other Courtmartial Will Follow for the Houston Raid.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 11.—Thirteen negro soldiers of the Twenty-Third United States Infantry, were hanged simultaneously at dawn today in execution of their murder of Houston citizens last August when members of that regiment engaged in a rioting in the city's streets. Forty-one other negroes were sentenced to life imprisonment; four others for short terms; five were acquitted.

In the dark of the night army motor trucks conveyed the lumber for the scaffold to a little clearing in a lonely spot where the army had a reservation, where the negroes, convicted by courtmartial, were to die.

They displayed neither bravado or fear. They rode to the execution singing a hymn, but the singing was as that of soldiers on the march. Arrived at the clearing, the singing stopped, the men, shackled, were helped from the trucks and each was placed on a chair. A low "good-bye boys" addressed to members of their military guard, who had been in charge of the army trucks, was the last they heard. The negroes dressed in their regular uniforms as carefully as for inspection.

An army chaplain offered prayer. An officer called "Attention" and as the negroes stood erect. They were then ordered to march to the gallows and then stepped on the traps. The major in charge of the execution gave a signal and soldiers sprang the traps.

Plunged Nine Feet. The negroes plunged nine feet to instant death.

Of the others, four were sentenced to dishonorable discharge from the army. The others were sentenced to two years and six months, and were sent to the penitentiary.

In spite of the executions and another case of rioting, the rioting in Houston this morning the riot at Houston is still in progress and it is expected additional courtmartial will follow.

Records Established by Crops of Country. Their Value Far Exceeds That of Other Years.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Food crops generally, with the exception of wheat, established a record in production this year and their value far exceeds that of other years. Cotton, however, was a disappointment.

The wheat crop shows a decrease of about 10 per cent from the previous year. The cotton crop is estimated at 650,000 bales and its value at \$100,000,000.

Oats is a record crop with 1,587,356 bushels and a value of \$10,000,000.

The potato crop is the largest ever grown with a total of 42,536,000 bushels, valued at \$45,000,000.

Other crops include corn, soybeans, beans, onions, cabbage and tobacco.

Federal Agents After Foodstuffs Speculators. A Number of Them Have Left Washington for Various Parts of Country.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Investigators of the Federal Bureau of Investigation here tonight for various sections of the country to begin an inquiry into the speculation in foodstuffs.

Destinations of the various agents were kept secret and nothing concerning their activities was to be made public until the commission issues subpoenas for suspected speculators. Alleged offenders will be held summarily before the commission.

Full publicity will be given in any case where the speculation has reason to believe that speculators are taking advantage of their country during war time.

East Berlin.—Although cars are used in the transport of coal, the shipment of crushed stone, and the plant is running daily.